

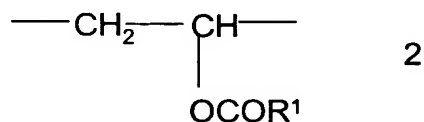
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A fuel oil comprising a ~~larger~~ proportion of middle ~~distillate~~ distillates having a sulfur content of at most 350 ppm and an aromatics content of at most 22% by weight, and ~~also~~ a ~~smaller~~ proportion of at least one copolymer of ethylene and vinyl esters, said copolymer ~~containing~~ comprising comonomers

a) bivalent structural units derived from ethylene of the formula 1

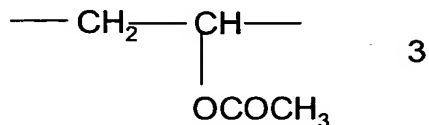


b) from 5 to 12 mol% of bivalent structural units of the formula 2



where R¹ is saturated, branched C₅-C₁₈-alkyl, and

c) from 4 to 13 mol% of bivalent structural units of the formula 3



and the wherein a sum of the molar proportion proportions of comonomers b) and c) structural units of the formulae 2 and 3 being is between 12 and 16 mol%.

2.(Currently Amended)) ~~A fuel oil as claimed in~~ The fuel oil of claim 1, wherein the molar proportion of the comonomer ~~branched vinyl ester b)~~ is between 5 and 11 mol%.

3.(Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The fuel oil as claimed in of~~ claim 1 ~~and/or 2,~~ wherein the molar proportion of ~~vinyl acetate~~ comonomer c) is between 4.6 and 9 mol%.

4.(Currently Amended) ~~The fuel oil of claim 1~~ A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the ~~comonomers b)~~ present are comonomer b) is a vinyl ester ~~esters~~ of branched carboxylic acids having from 5 to 15 carbon atoms.

5.(Currently Amended) ~~The fuel oil of claim 1~~ A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, wherein the copolymer further comprises ~~copolymers, in addition to the structural units referred to as a), b) and c),~~ contain up to 5 mol% of a further comonomer ~~comonomers~~ selected from the group consisting of olefins having from 3 to 18 carbon atoms, esters of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid with C₁-C₁₈-alcohols, [[and]] C₁-C₁₈-alkyl vinyl ethers, and mixtures thereof.

6.(Currently Amended) ~~The fuel oil of claim 1~~ A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, wherein the copolymer has a molecular weight ~~copolymers have~~ molecular weights (by GPC against poly(styrene)) of from 3000 to 15 000 g/mol.

7.(Currently Amended) ~~The fuel oil of claim 1~~ A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, wherein the copolymer has a degree of branching of the ~~copolymer backbone~~ determined by means of NMR [[is]] between 2 and 9 CH₃/100 CH₂ groups, not taking into account the methyl groups of the comonomers.

8.(Currently Amended) ~~The fuel oil of claim 1~~ A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7, wherein the copolymers have a melt viscosity ~~viscosities~~ at 140°C of from 20 to 10 000 mPas.

9.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the total content of aromatics in the middle distillate has an aromatic content is below 18% by weight.

10.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the middle distillate has a 90-20% boiling range of less than 110°C.

11.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the middle distillate has a paraffin content by DSC of more than 3% by weight of precipitated paraffins at 10°C below the cloud point.

12.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein the middle distillate has a density of less than 0.840 g/cm³.

13.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the middle distillate additionally comprises at least one further ethylene-vinyl ester copolymer.

14.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the middle distillate additionally comprises at least one polar nitrogen compound.

15.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the middle distillate additionally comprises at least one alkylphenol-aldehyde resin.

16.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the middle distillate additionally comprises at least one comb polymer.

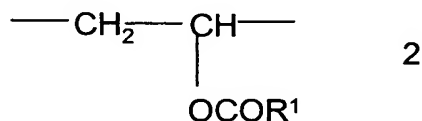
17.(Currently Amended) The fuel oil of claim 1 ~~A fuel oil as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the middle distillate additionally comprises at least one polyoxyalkylene derivative.

18.(Currently Amended) A copolymer of ethylene and vinyl esters comprising comonomers

a) bivalent structural units derived from ethylene of the formula 1

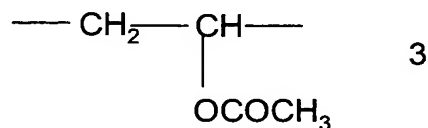


b) from 5 to 12 mol% of bivalent structural units of the formula 2



where R¹ is saturated, branched C₅-C₁₈-alkyl, and

c) from 4 to 13 mol% of bivalent structural units of the formula 3



and the wherein a sum of [[the]] molar proportions of structural units of the formulae 2 and 3 ~~being~~ is between 12 and 16 mol%.

19.(Currently Amended) ~~The use of copolymers as claimed in claim 18~~ A method for improving the cold flow behavior of a middle distillate ~~distillates, said method~~ comprising adding to said middle distillate having a sulfur content of at most 350 ppm and an aromatics content of at most 22% by weight said copolymer of claim 18.

20.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the molar proportion of the comonomer b) is between 5 and 11 mol%.

21.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the molar proportion of comonomer c) is between 4.6 and 9 mol%.

22.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the comonomer b) is a vinyl ester of branched carboxylic acids having from 5 to 15 carbon atoms.

23.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the copolymer further comprises up to 5 mol% of a further comonomer selected from the group consisting of olefins having from 3 to 18 carbon atoms, esters of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid with C₁-C₁₈-alcohols, C₁-C₁₈-alkyl vinyl ethers, and mixtures thereof.

24.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the copolymer has a molecular weight (by GPC against poly(styrene)) of from 3000 to 15 000 g/mol.

25.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the copolymer has a degree of branching determined by means of NMR between 2 and 9 CH₃/100 CH₂ groups, not taking into account the methyl groups of the comonomers.

26.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the copolymer has a melt viscosity at 140°C of from 20 to 10 000 mPas.

27.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the aromatic content in the middle distillate is below 18% by weight.

28.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the middle distillate has a 90-20% boiling range of less than 110°C.

29.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the middle distillate has a paraffin content by DSC of more than 3% by weight of precipitated paraffins at 10°C below the cloud point.

30.(New) The method of claim 19, wherein the middle distillate has a density of less than 0.840 g/cm³.